



## **News Release**

**U.S. General Services Administration  
Mid-Atlantic Region**

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### **U.S. General Services Administration Selects a Preferred Alternative and Releases Final Environmental Assessment for the New U.S. Courthouse in Harrisburg**

**Philadelphia** – The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) has selected a “preferred alternative” for the new U.S. Courthouse in Harrisburg. The preferred alternative is the alternative which GSA believes would best fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical and other factors.

However, it is important to understand that the selection of a preferred alternative is not a final site selection. GSA will focus its efforts on the preferred alternative as the site evaluation and environmental studies are finalized. The Regional Administrator has received the Site Selection Board's recommendation and will have the final approval on a site selection. A final decision is expected by the end of the summer.

GSA has identified The N. 6th and Verbeke Street alternative as the preferred alternative for the new U.S. Courthouse in Harrisburg. The site is bounded by N. 6th Street, Herr Street and Capital Street. The site is the preferred alternative for a number of reasons, but most importantly because GSA has the ability to relocate tenants to similar housing and it is an affordable site. In addition, the site is close to the Central Business District (CBD) and has similar amenities and characteristics as the CBD and there are less historic impact concerns regarding this site.

GSA has also released the final Environmental Assessment (EA) Study, which assesses the social, economic and environmental impacts of developing the three sites under consideration for the new U.S. Courthouse in Harrisburg. The three sites include: Verbeke Street, bounded by N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Herr Street and Capital Street; 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, bounded by Forster, North & Green Streets; and N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street & Basin Street. The EA objectively reviews the impacts and benefits of all three sites currently under consideration and is the process that will be completed while selecting a final site. The final EA also includes information on the preferred alternative selection. The EA was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

“The selection of a preferred alternative and the completion of the final EA mark a major step forward in the process of selecting a final site for the new U.S. Courthouse in Harrisburg. These milestones will assist GSA in making a careful and informed decision on a final site,” said Barbara L. Shelton, Regional Administrator.

A copy of the final EA can be viewed on the GSA website at [www.gsa.gov/r3projects](http://www.gsa.gov/r3projects). The step by step click through for this page is [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)--> **GSA Regions-->Mid-Atlantic (3)-->News & Notices-->Regional Projects**.



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Copies of the final EA are available for public review through August 4, 2006 at the following locations:

Dauphin County Library  
Harrisburg Downtown Branch  
101 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA

Dauphin County Library  
Harrisburg Uptown Branch  
7th and Division Streets  
Harrisburg, PA

Questions may be addressed to:

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